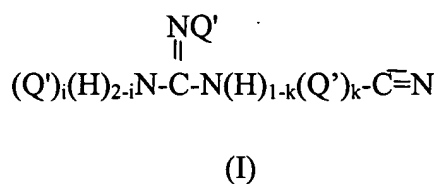
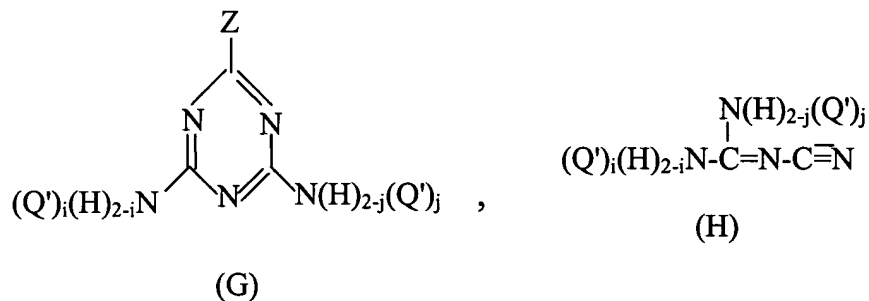
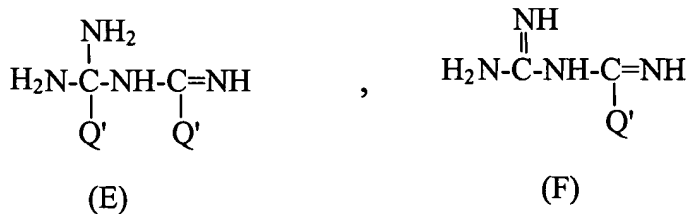
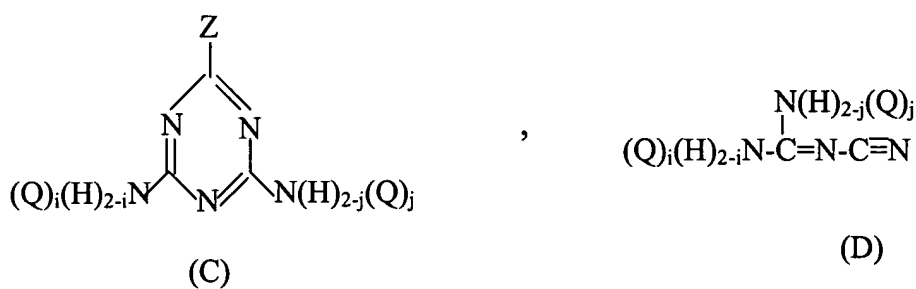
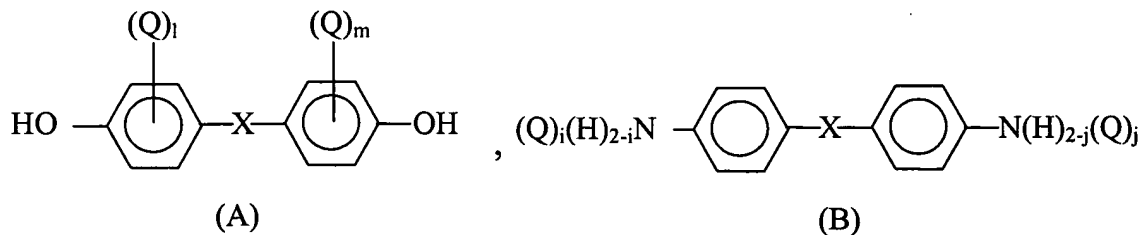


In the claims:

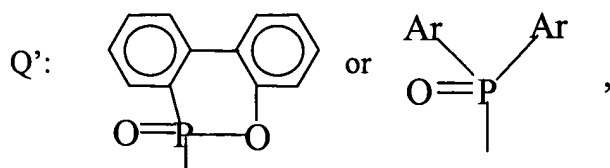
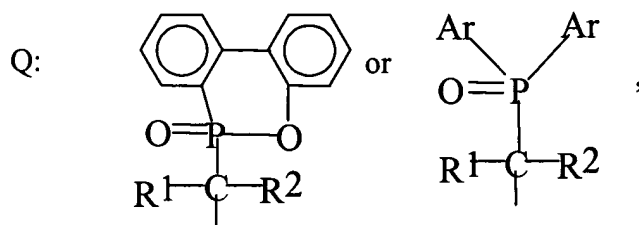
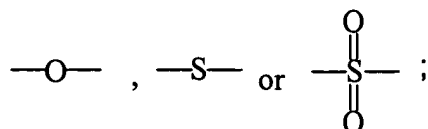
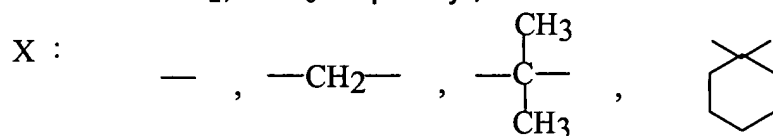
1. (Currently amended) A phosphorus-containing flame-retardant hardener having a formula selecting from the group consisting of (A) to (I):



wherein

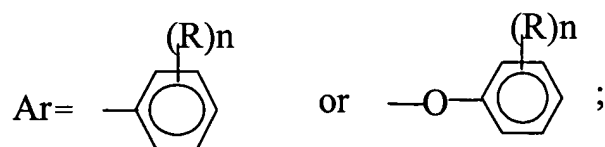
l and m independently are 0, 1 or 2, and $l + m > 0$; i and j independently are 0, 1 or 2, and $0 < i + j < 4$; k is 0 or 1, and $i + k < 3$;

Z is $-NH_2$, $-CH_3$ or phenyl;



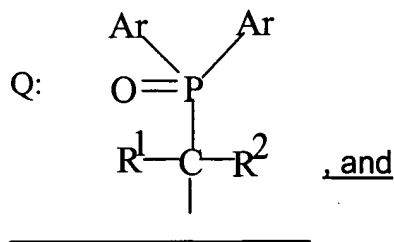
wherein

R^1 , R^2 independently are H, C1~C18 alkyl, C6~C18 aryl, C6~C18 substituted aryl, C6~C18 aryl methylene, or C6~C18 substituted aryl methylene;

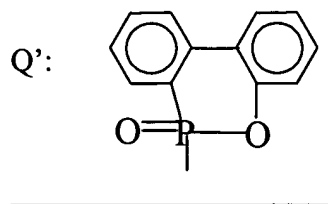


wherein R is C1-C4 alkyl or C6-C18 aryl; and n is an integer of 0 to 5,

wherein when said hardener has the formula (C):



wherein when said hardener has the formula of (G):



2. (Original) The hardener according to claim 1, wherein the hardener has the formula (A).

3. (Original) The hardener according to claim 1, wherein the hardener has the formula (B).

4. (Original) The hardener according to claim 1, wherein the hardener has the formula (C).

5. (Original) The hardener according to claim 1, wherein the hardener has the formula (D).

6. (Original) The hardener according to claim 1, wherein the hardener has the formula (E) or (F).

7. (Original) The hardener according to claim 1, wherein the hardener has formula (G).

8.(Original) The hardener according to claim 1, wherein the hardener has the formula (H) or (I).

9. (Original) The hardener according to claim 1, wherein i and j are 0 or 1, when the hardener has a formula selected from the group consisting of (B), (C), (D), (G) and (H).

10. (Original) The hardener according to claim 8, wherein k is 0, when the hardener has the formula (I).

11. (Original) The hardener according to claim 4, wherein Z is -NH_2 .

12. (Original) The hardener according to claim 7, wherein Z is -NH_2 .

13. (Original) The hardener according to claim 2, wherein R^1 and R^2 are hydrogen, and n is 0.

14. (Original) The hardener according to claim 3, wherein R^1 and R^2 are hydrogen, and n is 0.

15. (Original) The hardener according to claim 4, wherein R^1 and R^2 are hydrogen, and n is 0.

16. (Original) The hardener according to claim 5, wherein R^1 and R^2 are hydrogen, and n is 0.

17. (Original) The hardener according to claim 13, wherein Ar is phenoxy.

18. (Original) The hardener according to claim 14, wherein Ar is phenoxy.

19. (Original) The hardener according to claim 15, wherein Ar is phenoxy.

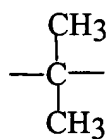
20. (Original) The hardener according to claim 16, wherein Ar is phenoxy.

21. (Original) The hardener according to claim 6, wherein Ar is phenyl.

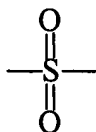
22. (Original) The hardener according to claim 7, wherein Ar is phenyl.

23. (Original) The hardener according to claim 8, wherein Ar is phenyl.

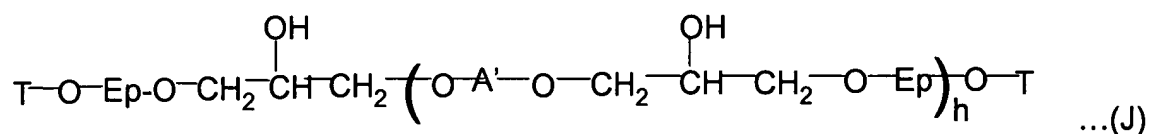
24. (Original) The hardener according to claim 2, wherein X is



25. (Original) The hardener according to claim 3, wherein X is $-\text{CH}_2-$ or



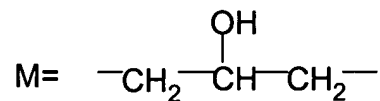
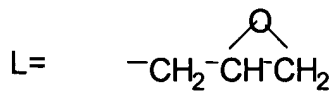
26. (Withdrawn) A phosphorus-containing flame-retardant advanced epoxy resin and cured epoxy resin having the following formula (J):



wherein

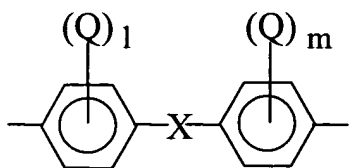
$0 < h < 10$;

T = L or M, wherein

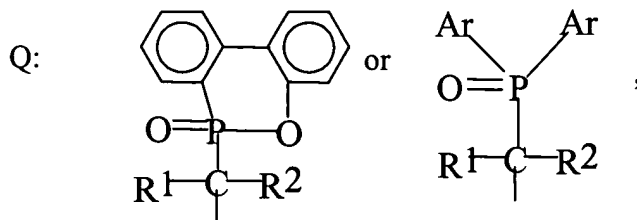
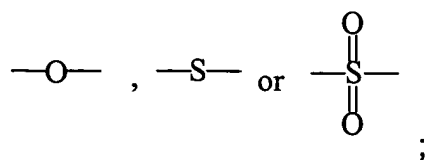
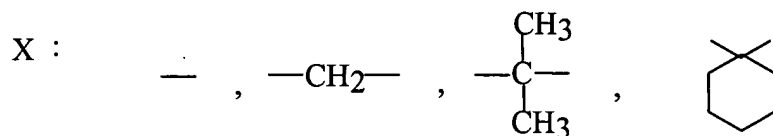


the formula (J) represents the advanced epoxy resin, when $T = L$; and the formula (J) represents the cured epoxy resin, when $T = M$;

A' is




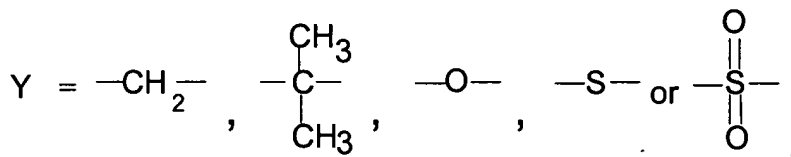
wherein l and m are independently are 0, 1 or 2, and $l + m > 0$;



wherein

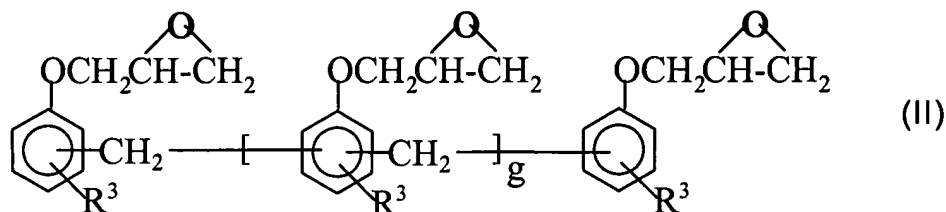
$$\text{Ar} = \text{---} \text{C}_6\text{H}_4 \text{---} \text{R}^n \quad \text{or} \quad \text{---} \text{O} \text{---} \text{C}_6\text{H}_4 \text{---} \text{R}^n ;$$

 , wherein



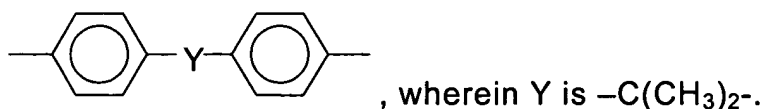
(A)

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wherein R³ is hydrogen, or -CH₃, and g is an integer of 1-6.

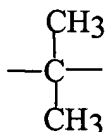
27. (Withdrawn) The phosphorus-containing flame-retardant advanced epoxy resin and cured epoxy resin according to claim 26, wherein Ep in the formula (J) is



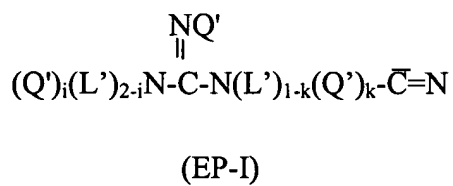
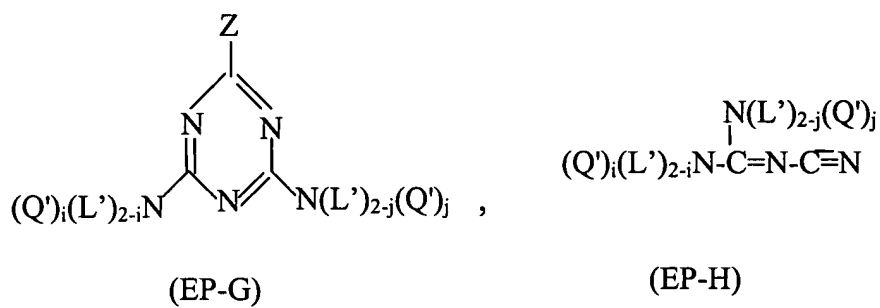
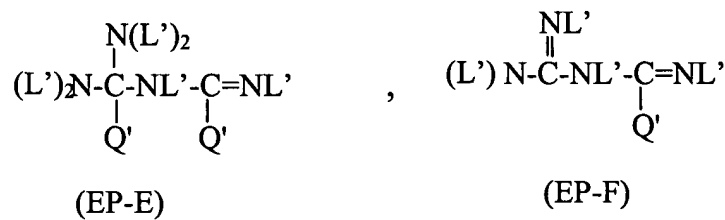
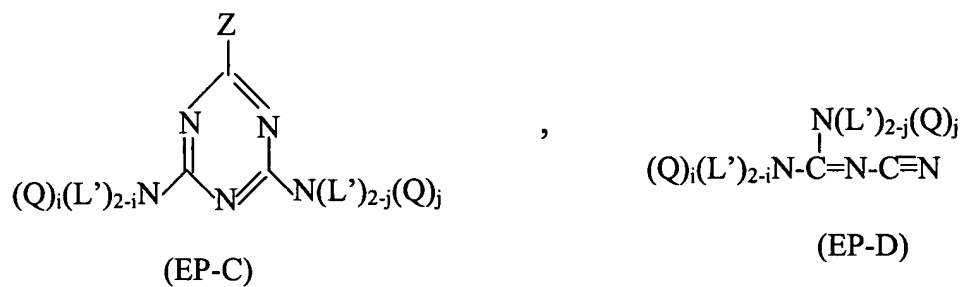
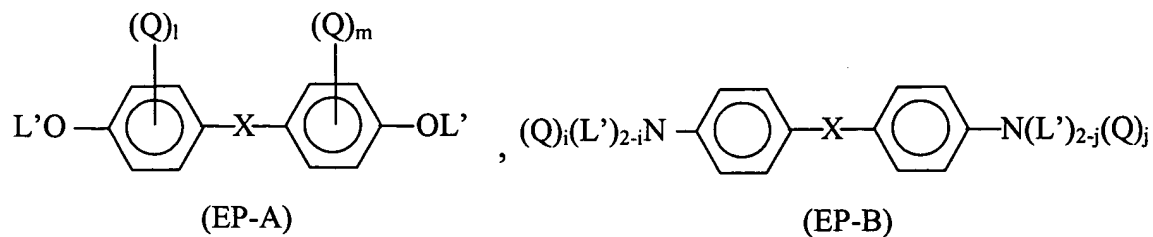
28. (Withdrawn) The phosphorus-containing flame-retardant advanced epoxy resin and cured epoxy resin according to claim 26, wherein Ep in the formula (J) is the phenol-aldehyde novolac epoxy resin backbone, wherein R³ in the phenol-aldehyde novolac epoxy resin (II) is -CH₃.

29. (Withdrawn) The phosphorus-containing flame-retardant advanced epoxy resin and cured epoxy resin according to claim 26, wherein R¹ and R² are hydrogen, and n is 0.

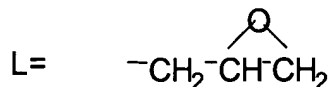
30. (Withdrawn) The phosphorus-containing flame-retardant advanced epoxy resin and cured epoxy resin according to claim 26, wherein X is



31. (Withdrawn) A flame-retardant epoxy resin having a formula selected from the group consisting of (EP-A) to (EP-I):



wherein l, m, i, j, k, Z, X, Q and Q' are defined as in claim 1; and L' is hydrogen or



, provided that at least two L' are L in each formula.

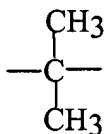
32. (Withdrawn) The flame-retardant epoxy resin according to claim 31, wherein the flame retardant epoxy resin has the formula (EP-A).

33. (Withdrawn) The flame-retardant epoxy resin according to claim 31, wherein the flame retardant epoxy resin has the formula (EP-B).

34. (Withdrawn) The flame-retardant epoxy resin according to claim 32, wherein R¹ and R² are hydrogen, and n is 0.

35. (Withdrawn) The flame-retardant epoxy resin according to claim 33, wherein R¹ and R² are hydrogen, and n is 0.

36. (Withdrawn) The flame-retardant epoxy resin according to claim 34, wherein X is



37. (Withdrawn) The flame-retardant epoxy resin according to claim 35, wherein X is -CH₂- or

